

Tribal Monitoring Guidance Workgroup Conference Call 12/05/05

Attendees:

Annabelle Allison (ITEP), Bill Thompson (Penobscot), Bill Grantham (NTEC), Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs), Emilio Braganza (TAMS), Joy Wiecks (Fond du Lac), Lisa Riener (Quinault Nation), Stephen Hartsfield (NTAA), Bill Nally (R6), Leland Grooms (R7), Motria Caudil (R5), Monica Morales (R8), Norm Beloin (R1), Joe Tikvart (OAQPS/SEE), Julie McClintock (OAQPS), Phil Lorang (OAQPS)

Discussion:

Julie McClintock began the discussion by identifying four topics for the conference call. They are: (1) where we are in the process of developing guidance; (2) outlines for and creation of two separate guidance documents ; (3) the draft monitoring guidance document recently circulated and reports on added new sections, and (4) a time line and next steps.

Where we are: Julie briefly reviewed the history of the NTAA meeting (10/05) for tribal professionals and several discussion groups for the draft guidance on tribal ambient monitoring. Feedback from these groups indicated that this single guidance document was trying to do too much and that two separate documents are desirable. The two documents should focus respectively on: (1) EPA Guidance: identifying, prioritizing and managing resources related to tribal air quality with Phil Lorang as the lead, and (2) Monitoring Guidance for Tribes: to provide technical and guidance information to tribes with Annabelle Allison as the lead. The second of these two documents is largely consistent with the guidance document currently in preparation. Preparation of both the separate documents should continue to involve tribal participation and tribal perspective.

Creation of two separate guidance documents: It was agreed that all components of the guidance document currently in preparation should be completed first. Then appropriate components of that document can be allocated to the two separate documents on policy and strategies (resource issues) and on technical guidance; various sections can be modified and new sections drafted, as needed. Draft outlines of the two separate documents had previously been proposed and circulated. It was noted that Phil needs help with preparing the first of the two documents. It was also noted that the monthly conference calls should continue to address both documents.

The draft monitoring guidance document: The draft guidance on tribal ambient monitoring was submitted to the NTAA for review. Since the NTAA meeting in early October, three sections of the guidance have been revised or added; they are sections IV, VII, and XII. These new sections have been added to the guidance and circulated to the work group.

Norm Beloin reported on substantial updates to Section IV. He had gotten comments from other members of the committee for this section and from tribal representatives. He noted some overlap with other sections that had been identified and would have to be resolved. Discussion focused on the table (Appendix C) which is a key component of the section. More examples and consensus is needed on what is going on among tribal air monitoring programs; comments are welcome. The table is intended to go beyond regulatory monitoring and to include other tribal monitoring programs. It was suggested that Norm should get input from Darrel Harmon (OAR), David Lutz (OAQPS) and the EPA Regional Offices. Input is needed on format and columns in the table, as well as tribal program information.

Subsequent to Norm's presentation, the subject of indoor air came up as to whether it should be included in Section IV, Section VII, or other sections. It was initially noted that EPA's program on indoor environments is more concerned with remediation, rather than monitoring, and input is needed from EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA). Emilio Braganza agreed to provide the necessary coordination to obtain the information. The question of whether the monitoring guidance document needs to be renamed to include indoor air was also brought up. A variety of opinions were expressed. They included: the guidance should be ambient air only and only enough said about indoor air to avoid confusion; overall discussion on indoor air might be provided, but guidance should be limited to ambient topics; due to tribal needs, indoor air should be included; finally, tribes have indicated concern about indoor air and separate guidance may be necessary. In conclusion, it was agreed that indoor air is important to tribes, but that this topic should not be included with the ambient guidance. This issue is important enough for the work group to revisit after Emilio discusses it with Farshid Farsi and with ORIA representatives.

Motria Caudill reported on the addition of Section VII. The section addresses data collection and covers the purposes as stated in Section IV. Recommendations on the use of data and its characterization through statistical analyses are provided. The statistical analysis discussion is substantial, but it was noted that the more comprehensive the better; more specifically, the needs of tribes should be included with each topic, noting gaps and the availability of training. Subsections on source apportionment and other topics still need to be written and coordinated with Section IX, especially the discussion of back trajectories.

Lisa Riener discussed the addition of Section XII which had been previously circulated, but had not been included in the original draft guidance document. She indicated that the section had gotten off to a good start, but that notes from the NTAA meeting and input from several tribal representatives, including Cindy Smallwood, Anna Casey, and Annabelle Allison needed to be considered. A conference call tentatively identified for 12/20 was suggested.

To insure that sufficient people are devoted to the effort, a brief status review was conducted:

Sections I, II, and III – McClintock/Grantham/Lorang/Tikvart have the lead for completion; comments are welcomed;

Section IV – Beloin with others has made good progress and should be able to complete by the next meeting;

Section V – Wiecks with others has prepared initial material but help is needed to complete this section; additional input will be provided by the next meeting;

Section VI – Lorang has the lead and will distinguish between the national monitoring strategy and autonomous tribal strategies;

Section VII – Caudill with others has made good progress and should be able to complete by the next meeting;

Section VIII – Farsi/Laplante have the lead; Julie will discuss progress with them;

Section IX – Rose with others is working on this section and has indicated that a draft will be available by the next meeting;

Section X – Hartsfield is working on this section and hopes to have a partial draft by the next meeting;

Section XI – Julie and Annabelle will explore the status of this section with volunteers;

Section XII – Riener has made good progress with this section and will meet with Annabelle and reach out to include other tribal views by the next meeting.

Next Steps:

1. Julie requested that revised drafts of all sections be submitted by January 18.
2. The next work group conference call will be on January 23.
3. Phil Lorang will provide an update to tribes during the January 31 Tribal Air call on the national monitoring strategy; changes include fewer monitors with an emphasis on multi-pollutant sites. It might be desirable to involve Darrel Harmon (OAR) and Region 10 staff in discussion of the national monitoring strategy and to invite their comments. Phil may also address proposed changes to the monitoring regulation.
4. It was noted that OAQPS will be undergoing a reorganization in January. While organizational names and responsibilities may change, no effect on the creation on the guidance documents is expected. Julie will continue to coordinate the guidance activities for the foreseeable future.
5. It was agreed that, for the present in completing the various guidance documents, it is not necessary to have separate tribal and EPA calls.